

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



09-10

MINISTRY OF
FIRST NATIONS AND
MÉTIS RELATIONS

MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2009-10

Statement from the Minister



On November 7, 2007, the people of Saskatchewan voted for change and entrusted a new government with responsibility for delivering on the promise of Saskatchewan and serving the people of our great province.

I accepted the responsibility for helping to deliver on our Government's plan for Securing the Future. I present to you, within these pages, my Ministry's Plan for 2009-10. In this Plan, we identify how the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations aligns with Government's vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all. The Ministry plays a key role in ensuring Government's obligations respecting the duty to consult and Treaty Land Entitlements are met and to support First Nation, Métis, and northern engagement in the economic growth of Saskatchewan.

The 2009-10 Budget enables a number of important initiatives and delivers on our promises. I will report on this Plan and my Mandate Letter commitments in the Ministry's annual report.

The Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Mission Statement

The Ministry strengthens relationships between First Nations and non-First Nations peoples in the spirit of the Treaties and ensures that First Nations and Métis peoples are consulted on provincial legislation and policies that may impact their legal rights and interests. The Ministry works with and beside First Nations, Métis and northern peoples, other provincial ministries, the federal government, local governments, and business to ensure that Saskatchewan First Nations, Métis peoples and northerners have opportunities to participate in and benefit from economic and social development.

Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2009-10 align with Government's vision and goals and the key priorities for 2009-10, as presented in the Government Direction for 2009-10. The 2009-10 Plan communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's activities over the coming year and reflects the Ministry's primary areas of focus. Together, all ministries support Government's three goals, working towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Strategies and Actions

Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Strategy

Key 2009-10 Actions

Provide government oversight for effective consultation and accommodation policy and participation

- With First Nation, Métis and key stakeholder engagement, develop a new consultation policy framework that:
 - ~ Protects the rights and interests of First Nations and Métis;
 - ~ Advances relationships among government, industry, and First Nations and Métis people; and,
 - ~ Results in economic development opportunities, certainty, predictability, and a stable investment climate benefiting all Saskatchewan residents.
- Provide support to provincial, regional, and community-level First Nations and Métis organizations so that they have the capacity to consult with government on permits, policies, and plans that impact their interests and rights.

Advance economic development for First Nations, Métis and Northern people

- Implement Northern Enterprise Regions with northern businesses and other stakeholders to increase business and industry competitiveness and support the North to reach its economic potential and compete globally.
- Support First Nations and Métis entrepreneurs and organizations' economic development through the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program.
- Lead/support northern regional economic planning and key sector (commercial fishing, tourism, and forestry) initiatives by providing or co-ordinating financial and technical supports.
- Provide Northern Development Fund (NDF) loans for primary producers and contributions to northern businesses and non-profit organizations.
- Administer northern mine surface lease agreements to address socio-economic benefits, land tenure, environmental protection, and occupational health and safety, and fulfill Government's related duty to consult responsibilities.

Strengthen the investment framework for northern industry

- Support northern Saskatchewan's (estimated 600+) commercial fishers' efforts to explore and implement alternative models that will broaden processing and marketing options for their catches.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry's Northern Mines and Benefits Unit, including the Environmental Quality Committee, to support parties' consultations and improved information sharing around northern mineral/energy exploration activities and developments.
- In partnership with other regulatory, developmental, and industrial partners, better co-ordinate and streamline decision-making frameworks affecting northern mineral development projects.

Strategy

Key 2009-10 Actions

Engage First Nations, Métis and Northern people in the provincial workforce

- Develop and implement employment partnerships with First Nations and Métis communities, industry, and educational institutions to increase employment through the Representative Workforce Strategy.
- In conjunction with Northern Labour Market Committee partners (northern industry, First Nations and Métis partners, and governments) identify and plan initiatives to strengthen northern youth proficiencies in math and science.

Foster economic and social development through the Gaming Agreements

- Manage the Province's obligations under the First Nations Gaming Agreement with respect to the First Nations Trust and Community Development Corporations (CDC).
- Manage the Province's obligations under the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act and the agreement between the Province and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan with respect to the Métis Development Fund (Clarence Campeau Development Fund). More information on the Gaming Agreements can be found at <http://www.fnmr.gov.sk.ca/gaming/>.

Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Key 2009-10 Actions

Fulfill the Province's land claim obligations with First Nations

- Negotiate, coordinate, and implement the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreements, ensuring that all provincial obligations related to TLE and specific claims are fulfilled.

Strengthen partnerships with First Nations, Métis and Northern people, and the federal government to address social and economic issues and opportunities

- Support the relationship with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) through the Bilateral Protocol to address First Nation issues.
- Work with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) and federal government to address Métis issues via the Bilateral Process Agreement and trilateral work plans.
- Lead the inter-ministry approach to working with the federal government and the FSIN to develop a joint agreement to implement Jordan's Principle to ensure that jurisdictional disputes do not interfere with services to First Nations children with complex medical needs.
- Negotiate an on-reserve self-government agreement and a framework agreement on lands, resources, and economic development with the Meadow Lake First Nations and federal government.
- Support colleague ministries in strengthening their relationships with First Nations and Métis people through leadership, direct advice, input on various committees and policy documents and other instruments.
- Work with the federal government to develop new partnerships to address First Nations and Métis issues and opportunities in Saskatchewan.
- Facilitate relationships with federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions on issues related to First Nations, Métis and northern people.

Performance Measures

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

Progress on developing a new consultation policy framework

- FNMR engaged Saskatchewan First Nations, Métis, industry and key stakeholders at the Roundtable Conference on First Nations and Métis Consultation and Accommodation in May 2008.
- FNMR released the Draft First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework on December 22, 2008 for review by First Nations, Métis, industry and other stakeholders.
- Next fiscal year, government will engage First Nations, Métis and key stakeholders in a process to address outstanding issues raised at the Roundtable: sharing in the wealth of the Province; consultation capacity; environmental stewardship; traditional territories and land use; and a dispute resolution process.

Significance of the Measure

The Courts have said that the purpose of consultation is to advance reconciliation and establish respectful and lasting relationships between First Nations and Métis people and governments. Consultation must take place before any legislation, policy program, permit or other activity that could adversely affect Treaty or First Nations or Métis rights is developed or put in place. It is important for FNMR to monitor Government's progress in this area as the risks of not undertaking the duty to consult in a rigorous, coordinated and meaningful way include delays to resource developments due to legal challenges, reduced confidence in Saskatchewan's economy, strained relationships with First Nations and Métis groups and potential civil unrest.

Support for First Nations and Métis organizations through the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund

Fiscal Year	Amount	Number of Applications Supported
2008-2009* (fully processed)	\$1.2M	32
2008-09* (in process)	\$1.0M	12
2007-08	\$1.1M	19

*as of March 11, 2009 – the program has provided similar funding, but supported more applications. Fourteen fisheries consultation grants supported Environment's First Nations Fisheries Conference held in January 2009.

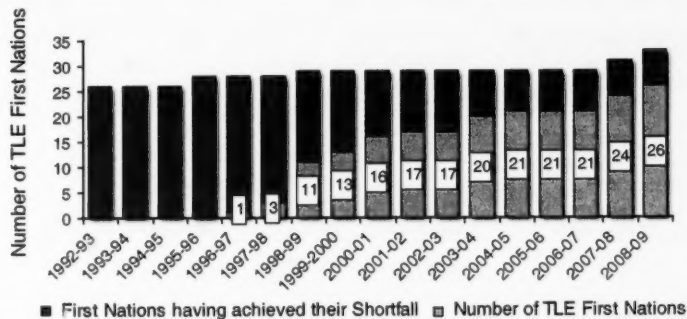
Significance of the Measure

The *First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund* provides assistance to First Nations and Métis to participate in consultations where government activities, decisions or actions may potentially impact Treaty or First Nations and Métis rights. The funds have supported costs related to government consultations, such as communication, outreach, education, traditional land use, participation, information interpretation and translation costs. This measure shows both the Province's commitment to engaging First Nations and Métis, as well as the demand for the Fund.

Measure

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE)
First Nations that have achieved their shortfall acres.

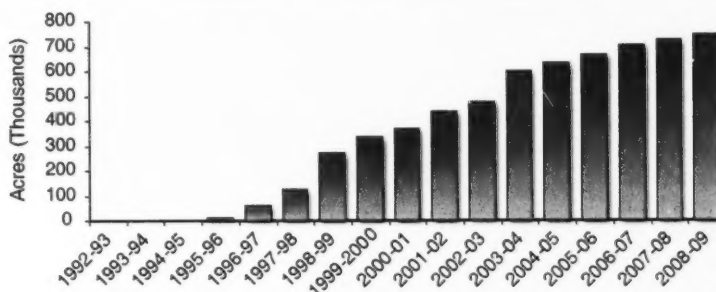
Baseline / Trend Line Information



Significance of the Measure

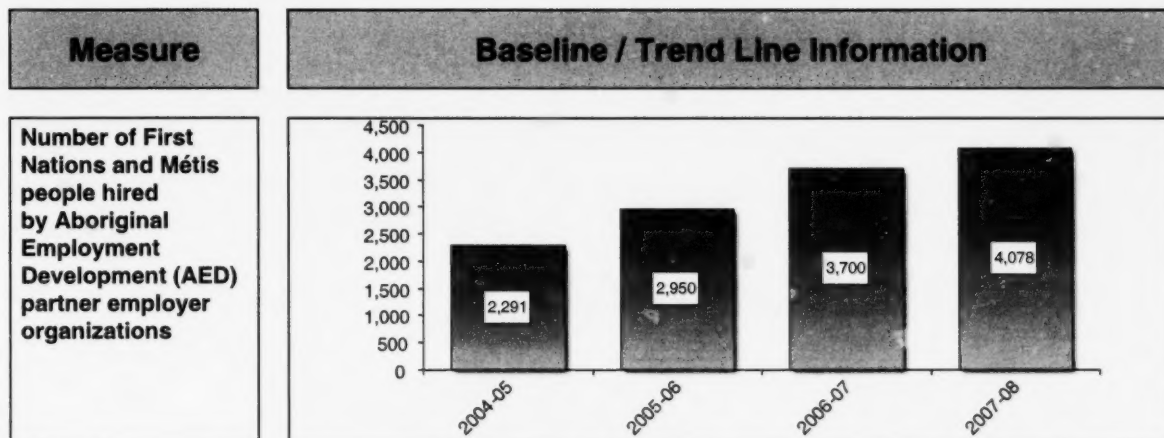
Through TLE Settlement Agreements, 33 First Nations must acquire and transfer to reserve status the amount of land that should have been received at the time of Treaty signing. This is known as "shortfall acres" and each Entitlement First Nation has a different set amount. The First Nations must acquire their shortfall acres before the Treaty obligation will have been met. Currently, the combined total for the 33 Entitlement First Nations is 547,677 acres. This chart shows that 26 of 33 Entitlement First Nations have achieved their shortfall acres since the signing of the *Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement* in 1992, and incorporates subsequent TLE agreements. Progress related to this measure is a key indicator of the Ministry's success in ensuring that all provincial obligations related to TLE and specific claims are fulfilled.

TLE reserve acres created since 1992



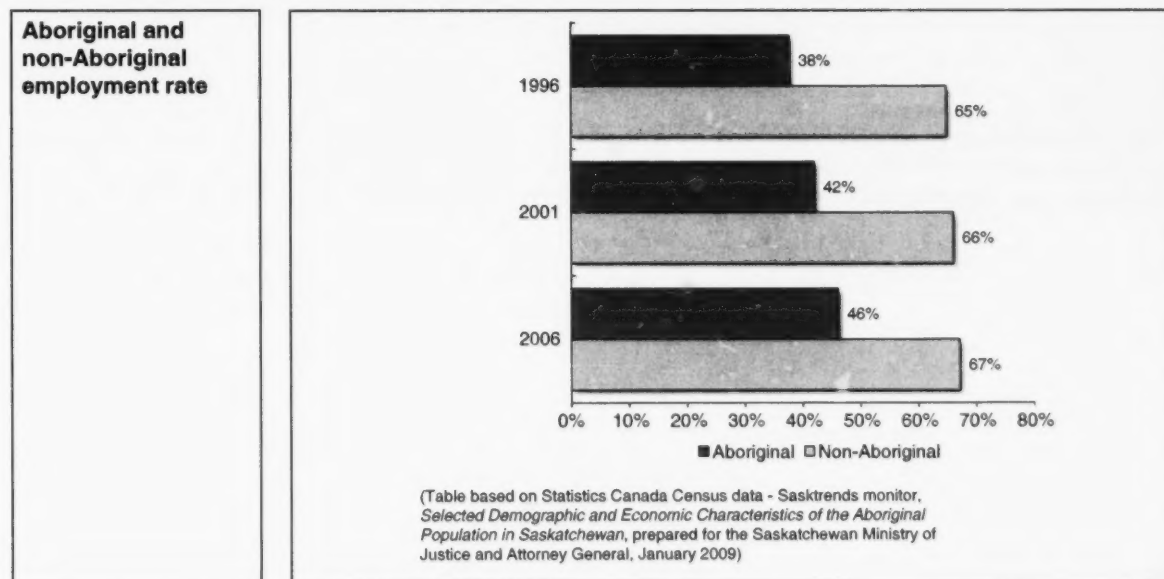
Significance of the Measure

This chart shows the amount of land acquired and transferred to reserve status (reserve acres) each year since the *Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement* was signed in 1992. This measure, along with the previous measure, are key indicators for the Ministry's success in ensuring that all provincial obligations related to TLE and specific claims are fulfilled.



Significance of the Measure

Through AED, the Ministry helps to increase employment and training opportunities through partnerships involving First Nations and Métis organizations, unions and public and private sector employers. Since these agreements were signed with 97 partners, 4,078 First Nations and Métis people have been hired by those organizations. This is a key measure of the Ministry's success in promoting and administering this program.



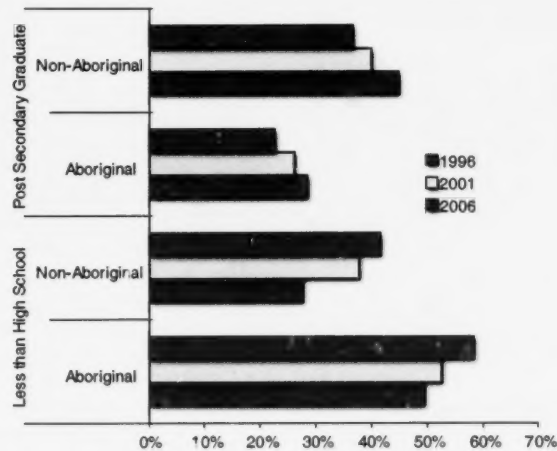
Significance of the Measure

The employment rate is affected by the availability of jobs and the suitability of the population to take those jobs. The rate varies by the age distribution of the population because most seniors are out of the labour force. The employment rate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults has narrowed from 27 per cent to 21 per cent in the past ten years. Although the Ministry's direct influence on this outcome is limited, this is a key government-wide economic and social indicator that is monitored by the Ministry.

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

Educational Attainment by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population



(Table based on Statistics Canada Census data - Sasktrends monitor, Selected Demographic and Economic Characteristics of the Aboriginal Population in Saskatchewan, prepared for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, January 2009)

Significance of the Measure

The levels of completed education are rising in the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in Saskatchewan. The gap between the two is, however, widening. Although the Ministry's direct influence on this outcome is limited, this is a key government-wide economic and social indicator that is monitored by the Ministry.

Financial Summary

Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2009-10

2009-10 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	4,036
Northern Economic Programs and Policies	2,350
Northern Industry and Resource Development	934
Policy Coordination and Support for Aboriginal Organizations	7,227
Gaming Agreements	68,696
Treaty Land Entitlement	4,885
Ministry Appropriation	88,128
Capital Asset Acquisitions (note 1)	(550)
Capital Asset Amortization	7
Ministry Expense	87,585

FTE Staff Complement	73
----------------------	----

Note 1: \$550,000 capital asset acquisition will complete the physical merger of the former Ministry of Northern Affairs staff with the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations at one location in Regina.

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at:
<http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2009-10>

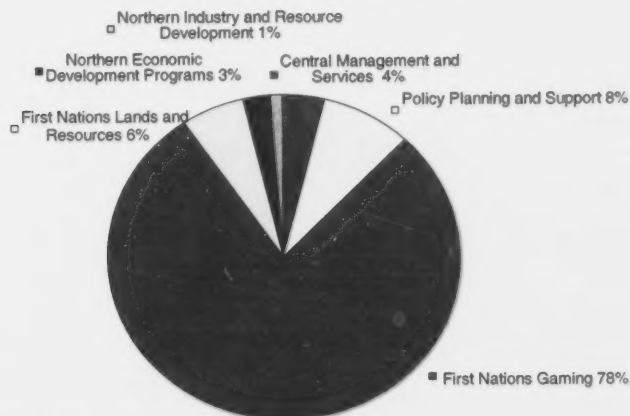
Budget Highlights

First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR) 2009-10 Budget is \$87.6 million, which is an increase of \$17.8 million over the 2008-09 Budget. This increase is primarily attributable to a forecasted increase in gaming payments that will flow through the Ministry.

In 2009-10, FNMR plans to:

- Commit \$300,000 to establish Northern Enterprise Regions with stakeholders in key sectors of the North to increase business and industry competitiveness and support the North to reach its economic potential and to compete globally.
- Continue to promote First Nations and Métis employment through a revitalized and focused approach within the Aboriginal Employment Development Program.
- Manage the Government's approach to First Nations and Métis issues by building and maintaining partnerships and relationships and providing leadership within government on First Nations and Métis issues.
- Provide Government oversight for effective consultation and accommodation policy and participation to protect the rights and interests of First Nations and Métis and support a stable investment climate benefiting all Saskatchewan residents.
- Meet Government's financial obligations pursuant to Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreements.
- Stimulate and support business and employment development in northern Saskatchewan; and promote maximum benefits and opportunities for northerners from northern development activity.
- Support positive community-industrial relations around northern fossil energy industries, mining and tourism sectors, and traditional trapping and commercial fishing industries.
- Advance northern perspectives and interests within government decision-making processes.

Ministry Spending by Subvote



*This represents flow through funding to the First Nations Trust and The Clarence Campeau Development Fund

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.fnmr.gov.sk.ca for more information on the Ministry's programs and services or call (306) 787-6250.

